

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
BASE THEATER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2338)
Connecticut Road, Between Illinois Drive and Idaho Avenue
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-BP

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. NY-326-BP

Location: Connecticut Road, Between Illinois Drive and Idaho Avenue,
Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.622160.4947420
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1957

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2338 was used to show motion pictures and present live stage productions to base personnel during their off-duty hours. The theater was also used as an auditorium where commanders could assemble their personnel for group instruction, graduation exercises, organization meetings, character guidance lectures, troop information programs, and officer and airmen calls. It also provided space for club meetings.

Project Information: Building No. 2338 at Plattsburgh AFB is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from Federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
Deborah Dobson-Brown
Earth Tech, Inc.
1461 East Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Base Theater (Building No. 2338)

Layout

Building No. 2338 is a 9,930 square-foot, brick theater building providing permanent seating for 532 persons. The building is irregular in plan, with offsets on the west and east facades. The south facade features a covered porch, with a flat roof supported by square brick columns. This facade serves as the main entrance away from New York Street. A landscaped area leads to the entryway and is highlighted by raised flowerbeds with decorative shrubs and benches. Above the porch area was the location of the theater marquee. The marquee was rectangular in shape and had moveable lettering capabilities. The back plane of built-space beneath the porch is filled with expansive plate glass windows and storefront doors, all framed in extruded aluminum. A landscaped area is located outside of the entryway and serves as a decorative approach to the building. There are no photographs showing how the auditorium looked during its use.

Alterations/Additions

There have been no major alterations or additions made to Building No. 2338.

Function

Building No. 2338 was designed and used to show movies, hold lectures, graduation and other similar functions.

Significance

Air Force bases such as Plattsburgh were, in and of themselves, self-contained communities. The men and women who manned these bases and carried out the Strategic Air Command (SAC) mission, brought with them families—husbands, wives and children. Because of the nature of the SAC readiness mission, the housing of base personnel in close proximity to the areas of military operations was necessary. Accordingly, facilities to support military personnel and their families in their leisure hours were essential to base moral, and hence to the overall SAC mission. Additionally, the facility was used as an auditorium space from which to hold larger scale, purely military assemblies further aided the base's mission.

Drawings

Copies of as-built drawings for the Base Theater, Building No. 2338 are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace....is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

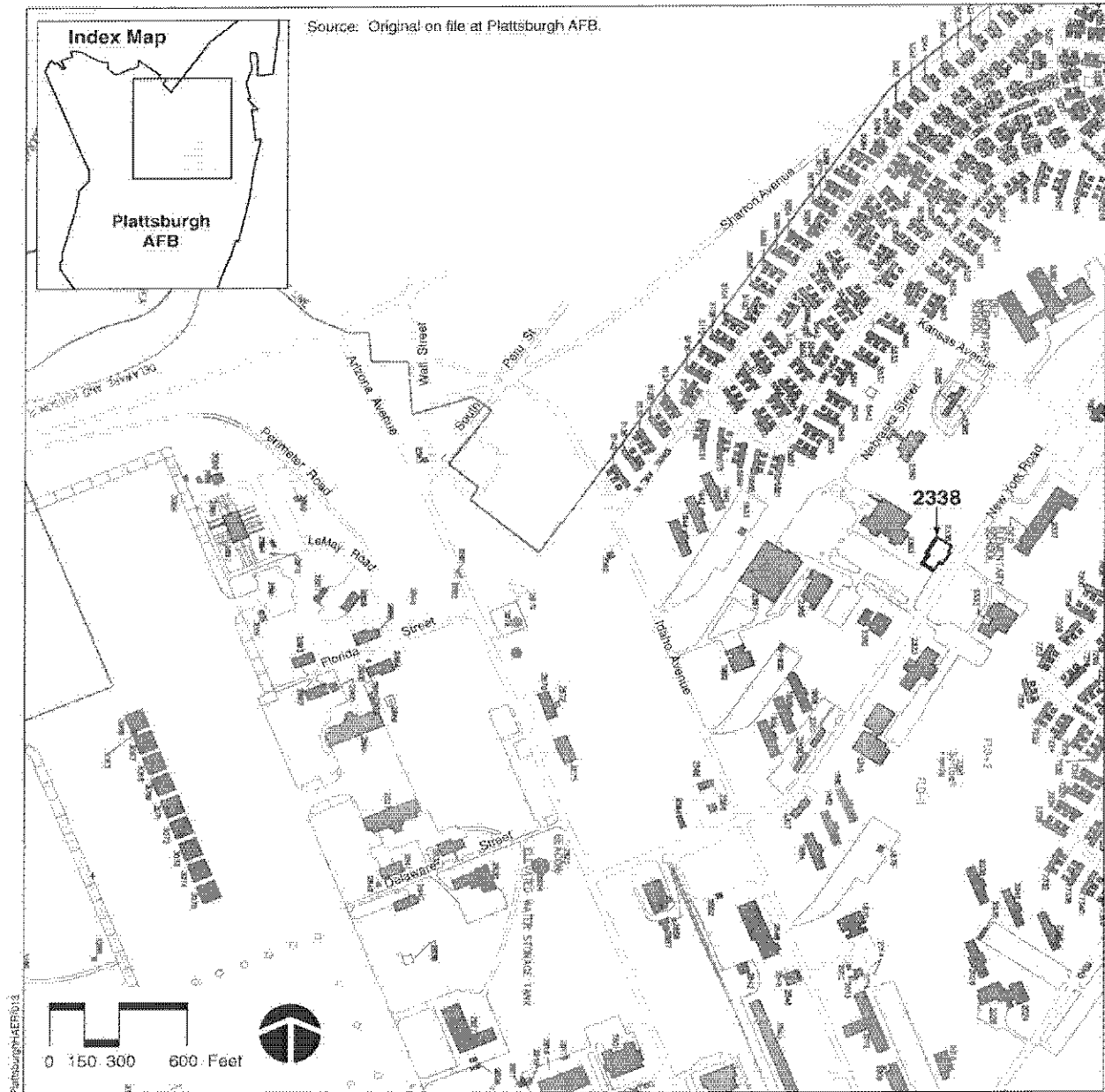
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

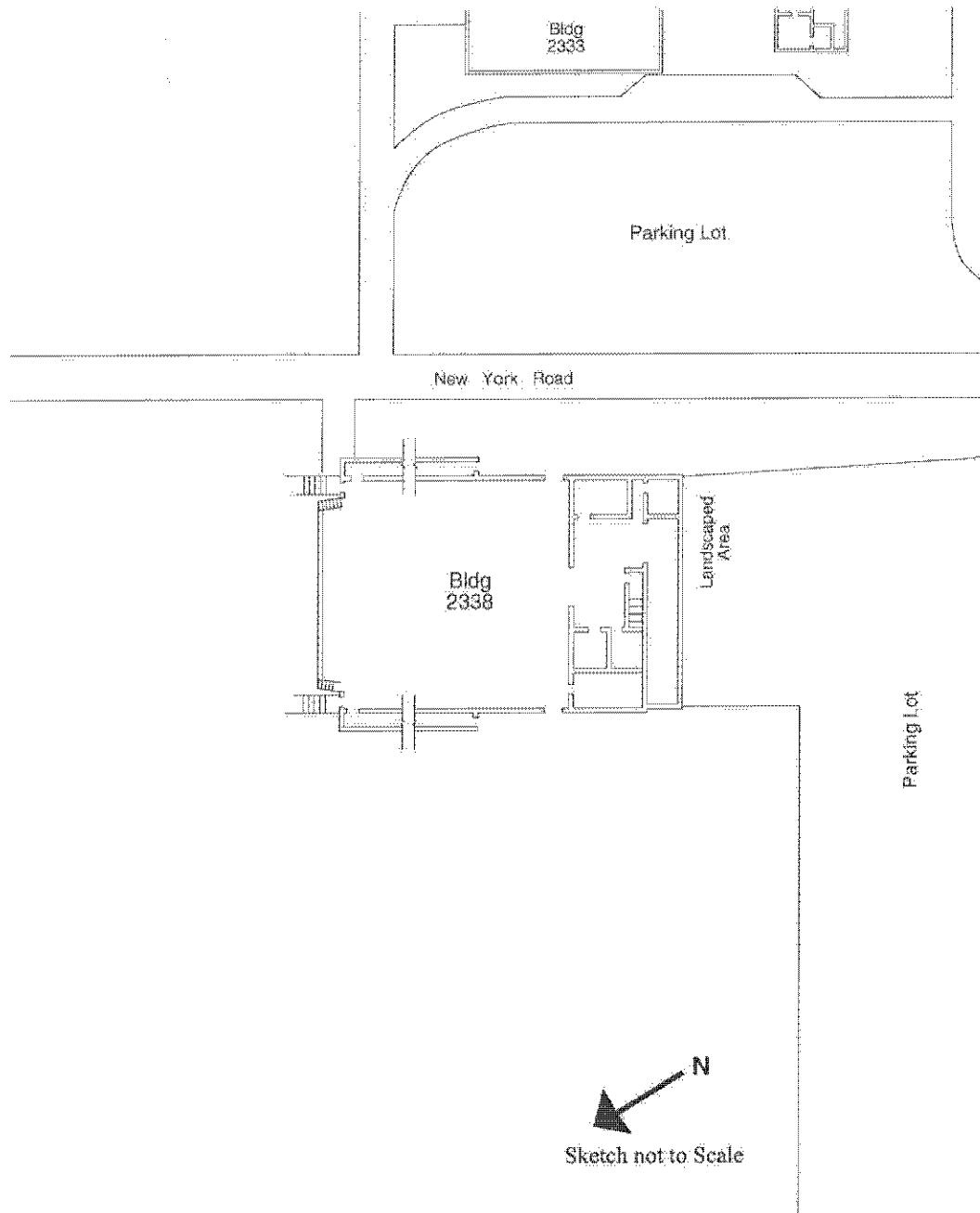
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
BASE THEATER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2338)
HAER No. NY-326-BP (Page 4)



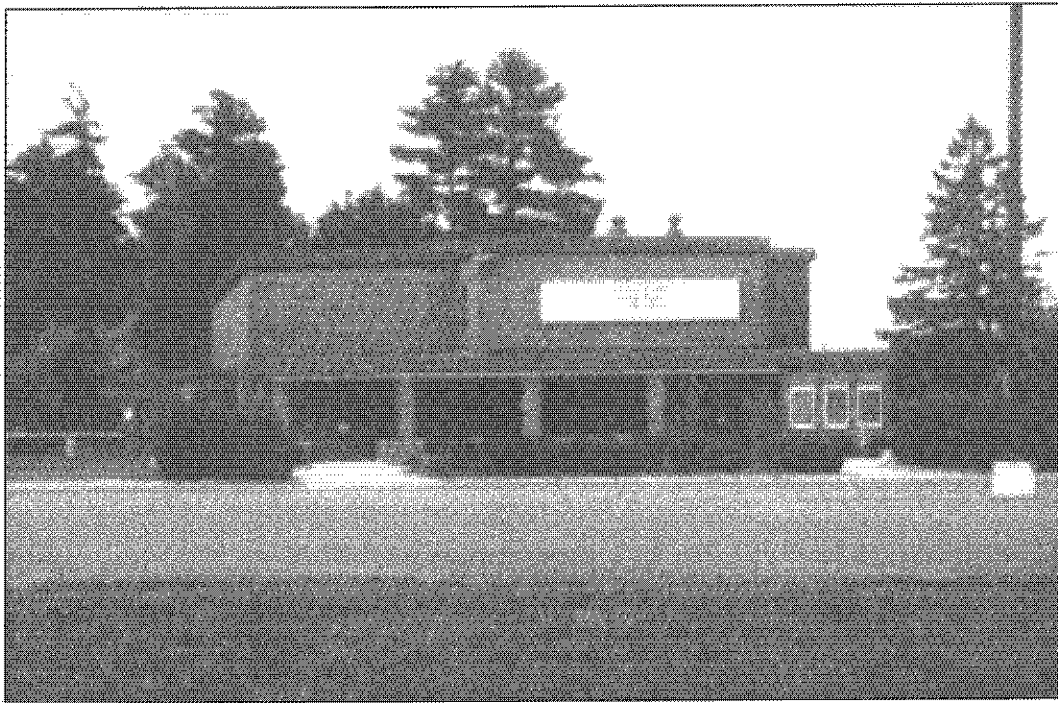
Location Map for Base Theater, Building No. 2338
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
BASE THEATER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2338)
HAER No. NY-326-BP
(Page 5)



SKETCH PLAN — BASE THEATER BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2338)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
BASE THEATER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2338)
HAER No. NY-326-BP
(Page 6)



Base Theater Building, Building No. 2338
Southwest (Front) Elevation Showing Marquee
Source: Earth Tech, Inc., October 13, 1997
Photographer: Joe Trinko (1997)